

balance the budget. It just simply is not there.

So suddenly we have a crisis in Medicare that cries out for immediate action, for immediate cuts totaling 80 percent of the money they need to fund their tax cuts. No, the crisis is not so much in Medicare, and it is not a new crisis. In fact, Medicare, according to the trustees, is in better condition today than it was a year ago. They have put off its potential insolvency for 12 months into the next century.

No, the crisis is in the corporate board rooms. The crisis is in the country club cocktail lounges. The crisis is that the Republicans in their contract promised the most powerful and the most wealthy and the most well off Americans a nice, big, fat, juicy tax cut, and they promised everybody else in America they would balance the budget. And now they want to balance the budget on the backs of the seniors by cutting Medicare to fund their tax cuts.

Congress is going to say no to this outrage, this new abomination worse than the worst aspects of the first 100 days of this Congress.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING] at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We are reminded during these days of the momentous occasion of the ending of conflict in Europe 50 years ago. As our thoughts go out in thanksgiving for the blessings of peace, we remember specially those members of our Armed Forces whose dedication and sacrifice brought new hope to so many people who had known destitution and suffering and death. We laud all those who labored for freedom and recall with praise their commitment and their allegiance to liberty. O gracious God, whose power created the Heavens and the Earth and whose grace is all about, may Your blessing be upon those who gave of themselves that others might live. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this vote will be postponed and the vote will be taken later today.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 103. An act entitled the "Lost Creek Land Exchange Act of 1995".

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. AKAKA as members of the Senate delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly Spring Meeting during the First Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, to be held in Budapest, Hungary, May 25-29, 1995.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. BINGAMAN as a member of the Senate delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the

One Hundred Fourth Congress, to be held in Tucson, AZ, May 12-14, 1995.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mr. GRASSLEY and Mrs. HUTCHISON to the Senate delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the First Session of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, to be held in Huntsville, ON, Canada, May 18-22, 1995.

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints Mrs. MURRAY as vice chairman of the Senate delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the One Hundred Fourth Congress.

#### AWOL

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as President Clinton goes to Moscow, he once again has dodged his responsibility.

This time, he has failed to exhibit any leadership when it comes to saving Medicare.

According to the Medicare Board of Trustees, a group which includes three members of the President's Cabinet, Medicare will go bankrupt by the year 2002.

Republicans are developing a plan which will protect, improve and preserve the Medicare system. We will do this by eliminating fraud and abuse, while slowing the explosive growth in costs.

Instead of joining with us in our reform efforts or offering solutions of his own, the President has gone AWOL. Yes, he is absent without leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want real leadership from their President.

They want us to take steps to save Medicare, not allow its costs to continue to skyrocket to the point of bankruptcy.

I urge the President to live up to his responsibilities and work with Congress to save Medicare.

#### REFORMING MEDICARE

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, anyone reading the paper or watching the news last week knows that Medicare is on the front line in the battles that lie ahead. Seniors are watching and what they see is troubling. Yes, we do need to reform Medicare—but there is a right way and a wrong way. Last year we had the chance to strengthen Medicare the right way—in the context of health